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Dakanese

Dakanese *Dakan-yonh*	
Type	Agglutinative
Alignment	Nominative-accusative
Head direction	Final
Tonal	No
Declensions	No
Conjugations	Yes
Genders	None
Nouns decline according to...	
Case	**Number**
Definiteness	**Gender**
Verbs conjugate according to...	
Voice	**Mood**
Person	**Number**
Tense	**Aspect**
Meta-information	
Progress	92%

Statistics	
Nouns	100%
Verbs	100%

Adjectives	100%
Syntax	88%
Words	0 of 2000

Creator	jretion

Dakanese is an artlang created in 2017 by jretion with the intent of being used in-universe as the official language of the City State of Dakan. Dakanese is an a priori language with grammar influenced by French, English and Japanese: the 3 languages that jretion speaks decently. In universe, Dakanese in its current form emerged from middle Dakanese ~500 years ago. Whilst not the only spoken language native to Dakan, it is the only official one. Before middle Dakanese, there was old Dakanese which co-existed with other extinct languages such as Yoshralese (a literary language which has gone 500 years without any speakers) and Odmeshic (a poorly-attested language only mentioned in old Dakanese texts along with minimal word lists.)

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Classification and Dialects

Dakanese's only known relative is named Shenish and is a minority language in the north of Dakan. The Dakanese government has yet to give official status or protection to the language and the language is slowly losing favour to Dakanese. Speakers of Shenish tend to display an accent when speaking Dakanese where U is said as [u] and UU is said as [ɯᵝ] instead of the standard pronunciations of [ɯᵝ] and [ɯᵝː] respectively.

Phonology

Consonants

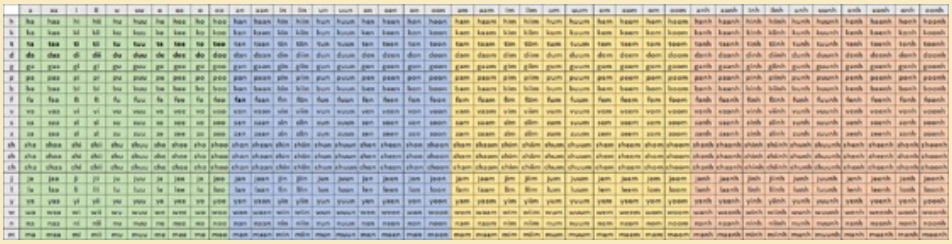
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m			n				ŋ
Plosive	p b			t d				k g
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ			
Affricate						t͡ɕ d͡ʑ		
Approximant							j	w
Lateral app.			l					

Vowels

	Front	Back	Front (long)	Back (long)
High	i	ɯᵝ	iː	ɯᵝː
Mid		o		oː
Low-mid	ɛ		ɛː	
Low	a		aː	

Phonotactics

Dakanese's syllable structure is CVN, meaning consonant (any consonant save [ŋ]), vowel (or diphthong) and nasal consonant ([m], [n] or [ŋ]). Syllables are also allowed to start with a vowel if they're at the beginning of a word. The syllable following a syllable ending in a nasal consonant may not begin with the same consonant. For example: Yomma wouldn't be allowed, but yomna and yonma are. Below is a chart of every possible syllable in Dakanese.



Writing System

Letter	H	T	D	K	G	P	B	F	V	S	Z	Sh	Zh	Ch
Sound	[h]	[t]	[d]	[k]	[g]	[p]	[b]	[f]	[v]	[s]	[z]	[ʃ]	[ʒ]	[t͡ɕ]
Letter	J	L	Y	W	N	M	Nh	A	AA or Ā	I	II or Ī	U	UU or Ū	E
Sound	[d͡ʑ]	[l]	[j]	[w]	[n]	[m]	[ŋ]	[a]	[aː]	[i]	[iː]	[ɯᵝ]	[ɯᵝː]	[ɛ]
Letter	EE or Ē	O	OO or Ō											
Sound	[ɛː]	[o]	[oː]											

Punctuation

The full stop (or period) is used to indicate the end of a sentence. The comma is used to separate the topic from the rest of the sentence. The question and exclamation marks are used to indicate a question and emphasis respectively. The apostrophe is used to separate syllables that end in n from the following syllable should it begin in h. Example: the correct way to spell *yonhoom* is *yon'hoom*.

Grammar

Nouns

Nouns are not conjugated with case, number or gender. The role of the noun is determined by which particle is followed by it. For example, the topic marker *hon*, the nominative particle *yekan*, the accusative particle *mimu* or the location particle *den.*

To indicate possession of a noun by another, you take the object which is owned, add the possessive particle *tom* and then put the noun which owns said object. For example: *moyonh tom choko* (My language).

Pronouns

Dakanese uses 4 personal pronouns. They are not marked for number, though should you really need to specify number, simply duplicate the last syllable. For example: *choko* (I) would become *chokoko* (We). However, this is uncommon and *choko* is used to mean both I and We; the meaning is usually clear from context. They're also not marked for case or gender. Like nouns, their roles are determined by the particle which follows it. The personal pronouns are displayed in this table with their corresponding English equivalents.

	English	Dakanese
1st person	I	Choko
2nd person	You	Yanka
3rd person	He/She/They	Joshon
Interrogative	Who	Namsha

Along with the 4 personal pronouns, there are also 4 demonstrative pronouns.

	English	Dakanese
Near the speaker	This	Mo
Near the listener	That	Aho
Away from both	That over there	Chono
Interrogative	What	Nam

There are also 4 pronouns for location.

	English	Dakanese
Near the speaker	Here	Shin
Near the listener	There	Shu

Away from both	Yonder	Sha
Interrogative	Where	Namshe

Verbs

Verbs have 2 classes and 2 registers: casual and polite. To change a verb from the casual register to the polite register, remove the ending and replace it with the polite ending for the same verb class. These endings are called the "dictionary form".

	Class I	**Class II**
Casual	-ami	-tomi
Polite	-hoku	-doku

The tenses of Dakanese

Dakanese verbs are marked for tense and mood. The tenses are past, present and future. The moods are indicative, conditional, imperative, passive, hypothetical and volitional. Two tables will be below, displaying all possible conjugations. Darker areas which have no text in them are forms which are not possible. To make the negative form of a verb, add *amee at the end.*

Conjugation of casual class I and II verbs

	Indicative	**Conditional**	**Imperative**	**Passive**	**Hypothetical**	**Volitional**
Class I Past	-anh	-am		-aa	-amaa	
Class II Past	-toma	-to		-too	-tonoo	
Class I Present	-aam	-aada	-amanh	-amka	-amkaa	
Class II Present	-tonh	-tomo	-toyo	-todu	-totuu	
Class I Future	-amaka	-amama	-a	-amai	-amtai	-amto
Class II Future	-toyoka	-totoo	-ton	-toti	-tohom	-tooma

Conjugation of polite class I and II verbs

	Indicative	Conditional	Imperative	Passive	Hypothetical	Volitional
Class I Past	-ho	-hoka		-hoom	-homa	
Class II Past	-do	-doko		-domoo	-domo	
Class I Present	-hoho	-hopa	-honh	-homka	-hoo	
Class II Present	-dodo	-doba	-donh	-domka	-doo	
Class I Future	-hom	-hokoto	-hokan	-homta	-hokaa	-hoshi
Class II Future	-dom	-dokoto	-dokan	-donta	-dokaa	-doshi

Adjectives

Adjectives work similarly to verbs. However, they are only conjugated in one way: no classes nor registers of politeness. All adjectives finish in *miki.* All adjectives are indicative. To negate and adjective, add *mee* to the end.

Conjugation of Adjectives

	Positive	Negative
Past	-moki	-moko
Present	-miki	-miko
Future	-meki	-meko

Adverbs

Adverbs work the same as adjectives, though their endings are different. All adverbs end in *yako*. Adjectives may also be made into adverbs by removing *miki* from the end of the word and replacing it with *yako*. The table below shows how adverbs are conjugated. The same rule for negating adjectives applies here: to negate an adverb, one adds *mee* to the end.

	Positive	Negative

Past	-yuka	-yuko
Present	-yako	-yake
Future	-yeka	-yekuu

Syntax

Dakanese's normal word order is TSOV (Topic, Subject, Object and Verb), although it is possible to change the order around because of the particles being used to indicate roles. The only thing is that the topic must always be first. Take this sentence as an example:

(*Choko hon,) yanka mimu koto-jika yonamamto.*

Translation: I shall see you later today.

This sentence, piece by piece means (*I [topic],) you [object] today-[time] see-[future volitional].*

Note: (Choko hon) is in brackets since choko is the default topic should another topic not be specified at the beginning of a conversation, though one would say choko hon if the topic isn't oneself and one would like to change the topic.

Describing Things

Adjectives can be used in a sentence like a noun, but cannot have any particles associated with it. Should the adjective appear at the end of a sentence, one needn't add the verb *atoku* (to be) as it's implied. For example: *(Choko) Hikanmiki atoku.* means "I'm hungry." though just saying *Hikanmiki* would suffice.

Describing the Desire for Something

Like Japanese, Dakanese has a suffix added to the end of a verb to describe the desire for something. However, unlike Japanese, it isn't an auxiliary adjective, but an alternate verb ending which applies for both verb classes, though it is still subject to change regarding the politeness register. Unlike regular verb endings, the "wanting suffix" can only be in 4 moods: Indicative ([subject] wants to [verb].), Conditional (If [subject] wants to [verb].), Passive ([Subject] wants [verb] done to them.) and Hypothetical (Let's say [subject] wanted to [verb].)

Register	Tense	Indicative	Conditional	Passive	Hypothetical
Casual	**Past**	-amandai	-amodai	-amudai	-amendai
	Present	-amaam	-amoom	-amuum	-ameem
	Future	-amamon	-amomon	-amumon	-amemon
Polite	**Past**	-hila	-hela	-hala	-hiila
	Present	-hin	-hen	-han	-hiin

	Future	-hiko	-heko	-hako	-hiiko

Base-12 Numeral System & Math Operations

Numbers 0 to 12.

Unlike English and a fair share of other languages, Dakanese is base-12 or duodecimal, meaning a number like 13 would be said twelve-one. Below is a table of the numbers from zero to 12.

Number	English	Dakanese
0	Zero	Eema
1	One	Himon
2	Two	Lemi
3	Three	Taam
4	Four	Vemin
5	Five	Losum
6	Six	Jenhla
7	Seven	Ima
8	Eight	Hokim
9	Nine	Elem
A	Ten	Maiwa
B	Eleven	Nincho
10	Twelve	Tokam

Numbers Bigger than 12

Numbers that are bigger than twelve follow the format [multiple prefix]-12-[remaining numbers]. An example of this in use is the number 26 (22 in base-12): *Letokam-lemi.* The multiple prefixes are below.

Multiple of 12	Prefix

1*12	(Implied)
2*12	Le-
3*12	Taa-
4*12	Ve-
5*12	Lo-
6*12	Je-
7*12	I-
8*12	Ho-
9*12	El-
10*12	Mai-
11*12	Nin-
12*12	To-

Fractional Duodecimal Numbers

Fractional duodecimal numbers are indicated with a comma instead of with the full stop in English. In spoken speech, the fractional part of a number is indicated by the word *emeto* and then the numbers that follow. For example, 52.5 would be written 44,6 and said *Vetokam-vemin emeto losum* (Four-twelve four [duodecimal mark] six).

Words for Mathematical Operations

Operation	English	Dakanese
Addition (+)	Plus	Tooka
Subtraction (-)	Minus	Domuu
Multiplication (×)	Times	Aketai
Division (÷)	Divided by	Loom
Exponentation (^)	To the power of	Mailade

Base-20 Numeral System

Numbers 0 to 20

Along with the duodecimal system, Dakanese has an alternative counting system: vigesimal (also known as: Base-20). This means that unlike duodecimal, all numbers higher than twenty are based on twenty, like how the numbers 70 to 99 work in French. These are more common in formal speech, but it's also not unheard of for it to be used in casual speech, especially in North Dakan where it's more common than base-12. If you want to avoid confusion, you can use the phrase *Choko yekan kolowamiki.* Literally meaning "I am twenty." but actually meaning "I count in base-20."

Number	English	Dakanese
0	Zero	Eema
1	One	Himon
2	Two	Lemi
3	Three	Taam
4	Four	Vemin
5	Five	Losum
6	Six	Jenhla
7	Seven	Ima
8	Eight	Hokim
9	Nine	Elem
A	Ten	Maiwa
B	Eleven	Nincho
C	Twelve	Tokam
D	Thirteen	Vaila
E	Fourteen	Tatai
F	Fifteen	Umta
G	Sixteen	Meema
H	Seventeen	Powa

J	Eighteen	Gom
K	Nineteen	Chodo
10	Twenty	Kolowa

Numbers Bigger than Twenty

The same system used in base-12 is used, but you replace it with 20, so then bigger numbers follow the structure [multiple prefix]-20-[remaining numbers]. The multiple prefix used is below.

Multiple of 12	Prefix
1*20	(Implied)
2*20	Le-
3*20	Taa-
4*20	Ve-
5*20	Lo-
6*20	Je-
7*20	I-
8*20	Ho-
9*20	El-
10*20	Mai-
11*20	Nin-
12*20	To-
13*20	Vai-
14*20	Ta-
15*20	Um-
16*20	Mee-
17*20	Po-
18*20	Go-

19*20	Cho-
20*20	Ko-

Fractional Vigesimal Numbers

In transcription, a semicolon is used instead of a comma to indicate the vigesimal point in a number as to reflect the fact a different word is used to indicate a fractional number in speech. So the number 20.5 in vigesimal would be written 10;A instead of 18,6 as if it were base-12. The word used instead of *emeto* is *miala*. So 10;A would be said *kolowa miala maiwa.*

Lexicon

Basic Vocabulary

Word Class	English	Dakanese
Noun	Person	Don
Noun	Day	Ha
Noun	Night	Noman
Noun	Village	Kain
Noun	Town	Yojo
Noun	City	Wajin
Noun	Bed	Momo
Adjective	Bright	Yaamiki
Verb	To see	Yonami
Verb	To speak	Samtomi
Verb	To eat	Manami
Noun	Name	Dosomi
Adverb	How	Anyaako
Verb	To be	Atoku
Verb	To exist	Ikami

Noun	Food	Mani
Particle	Yes	Waa
Particle	No	Oo
Interjection	I don't know	Emee
Interjection	Hello/Hey	Ama
Adjective	Sorry	Doshamiki
Adverb	However	Yuuka
Noun	Hotel/Inn	Loyum
Adverb	Near	Aiyako
Particle (s)	Language	-yonh
Particle (s)	Most	-mai
Particle (p)	Least	De-
Adjective	Neutral	Demaimiki
Particle (s)	Broad-range	-ken
Particle (p)	Close-range	Aiwa-
Noun	Communication	Honya
Noun	Telephone	Honyakengim
Noun	Device	Gim
Noun	Job/Employment	Aamla
Verb	To have	Giimami
Noun	Country/Nation	Gakim
Verb	To come from	Kimtoku
Particle	From	Lamna
Noun	Country of origin	Kimtogim

Example Phrases

[English] Hello! My name is _____.

[Dakanese] *Ama! Dosomi tom choko hon, _____ atoku.*

[English] I'm sorry, but do you speak English?

[Dakanese] *Choko hon, doshamiki. Yanka hon, Anhlisha-yonh mimu samtonh yo?*

[English] Where is the nearest hotel?

[Dakanese] *Loyum hon, aiyako-mai namshe den ikami yo?*

[English] Do you have a telephone?

[Dakanese] *Honyakengim tom yanka hon, ikami yo?*

[English] Where do you come from?

[Dakanese] *Yanka hon, namshe lamna kimtotoo yo?*

[English] I'm from _____.

[Dakanese] *Choko hon, _____ lamna kimtotoo.*

Example text

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breezewiki

BreezeWiki source code

Documentation and more information

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